

# PRAIRIE STAR

VOLUME 2  
NUMBER 8  
JANUARY, 1977

edmonton's alternate  
newspaper

still **25¢**

**Peltier extradited, faces death**

## DEPORTED!

Prairie Star News Service

Leonard Pelletier has been deported.

Pelletier, a member of AIM, had been imprisoned in Vancouver since his arrest in February 1976. He faces charges of murder in connection with the deaths of two FBI agents at Pine Ridge in South Dakota.

Justice Minister Ron Basford gave federal government consent to the extradition on Friday, Dec. 20 and Pelletier was flown across the border by helicopter the following day.

Asked to justify his decision, Basford asserted that charges against Pelletier were "not of a political nature".

According to native militant Vern Harper the charges against Pelletier are extremely political, and what's more the Canadian government knows it.

"There is much support for Leonard and now there'll be even more. This is one reason why his extradition took as long as it did."

Harper added that this is just another example of how the Canadian government takes orders from the US. He contrasted it to the case of Hal Banks. When the roles were reversed and Canada wanted the extradition, the US government simply refused.

At present native militants are being attacked on several fronts. In Thunder Bay, Ojibway Warrior Society co-chairman Louis Cameron will receive his sentence on Monday, Dec. 20. Cameron was convicted of assault by a white jury after the presiding judge recommended that he be acquitted.

While Cameron faces charges of up to five years in prison, Leonard Pelletier faces a possible death penalty.

According to Harper, it's white probable that the AIM leader will be executed.

Harper was in Vancouver last week and visited Pelletier a few

days prior to his extradition. He said Pelletier was in good spirits and felt that his time in jail hadn't been wasted if it helped promote struggle.

Harper added that the struggle was not simply a racial struggle of white against Indian, but was a class struggle.

"Even our white liberal supporters are beginning to learn what this society is really like."

Harper stressed the need for unity among Native groups. He was critical of what he termed "red-baiting and white-baiting". According to Harper, native people's struggle is one part of a broad struggle involving Third

World peoples and also the predominantly white Canadian working class.

Nor is Harper demoralized by recent events.

"If they execute Leonard, our people will turn grief into strength and struggle even harder for what he believes in. We fight for Leonard because the issues he stands for are our issues."

Harper and his wife Pauline Shirt are co-chairpersons of the Toronto Warrior Society, an affiliate of AIM.

**Peltier interview**

pg. 5



VERN HARPER

**FSAC demonstrators cleared**

## ACQUITTED!

Prairie Star News Service

In late September, 61 Edmontonians were arrested for refusing to leave the Victoria Park cricket field. They occupied the field during a match between a select team of the the Edmonton District Cricket league and the Derek Robins Eleven cricket team. The latter has racist sports links with South Africa.

The mass action, organized by the Free Southern Africa Committee (FSAC) in conjunction with SAN-ROC (South Africa Non-Racial Olympic Committee), was undertaken as a direct attempt to prevent racist sport in Edmonton. Ironically enough, most of the Edmonton team was non-white, and as the protestors pointed out in the picket which preceded the sit-in, the team would not have been allowed to play white South African teams in South Africa under the apartheid system.

The Protestors were brought to trial on October 21, October 22 and October 25. All individuals faced two charges - assault by trespass and obstruction of a police officer. During the trial an informational picket line was maintained outside the court house and leaflets containing a press release were handed out as well as copies of an FSAC newsletter. A large photo display depicting effects of the apartheid system was exhibited on

the sidewalk and drew wide interest from passers-by, but was removed at the orders of the police.

Three of the first 21 had charges dropped since they could not be identified by the arresting officers.

Most of the Crown's evidence was presented by policemen and dealt with identification of the accused, description of protest tactics and a fairly lengthy description of the game of cricket.

The only non-police witness called by the Crown was Geoff Williams, organizer of the racist cricket match. The defense relied on legal arguments, their main contention being that the protestors should have been physically removed and if they then returned to occupy the field, the arrests would have been legal. As it was, no effort was made to physically remove the protestors before arrests were made.

Both the Crown and the defense asked that the trial of the remaining 40 be held back until a decision had been made for the first 21. Presiding Justice Dimos, reserved his decision until Dec. 9.

The remaining 40 people appeared in court on Oct. 27. They were asked to appear on Dec. 10 for the setting of a new trial date pending the outcome of the first trial.

On Dec. 9, the 18 individuals charged appeared before Judge Dimos and had the charges against

them dismissed. In dismissing the charges the judge indicated that he accepted the argument that the police had not exercised proper procedures in executing the arrests. He agreed that attempts should have been made by the police to physically remove the protestors from the field before any arrests were made.

Dimos also stated that the passive resistance used by the demonstrators did not constitute obstruction, nor did the failure to respond to police requests to leave the field. He pointed out that there may have been some question as to who was in lawful possession of the field when the protestors were arrested since the field is public property and also that no one tried to prevent the protestors from occupying the field when they first assembled and began to eat their lunch there.

The judge dismissed the arguments of prosecution that the use of reflectors endangered the lives of the cricketers, since the reflectors did not prevent the players from continuing the game and since no attempt was made by the police to stop the use of reflectors.

Dimos cautioned the 18 protestors that he understood the frustration of the police and commended them for not using greater force.

He made it clear he was not in favour of restricting the power of police to make arrests, but stated this was for law-makers to decide, not judges. He added there is a fine line between a peaceful demonstration and an unlawful assembly.

On Friday, Dec. 10, the trial date for the remaining 40 was set for Jan. 11.

**ENERGY  
COUNTER  
CONF.**

pgs. 6 - 7

Jim Campbell  
20 Fairview Avenue  
KITCHENER, Ontario

Canada





# LETTER

Dear Readers:

For the past 3-4 years, OXFAM-Canada has been providing humanitarian support for those in southern Africa struggling against racism and injustice.

The events of the past year have increased dramatically the need for such support, both to the liberation movements, and to the newly independent nations of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau.

One especially tragic incident was the vicious attack by Rhodesian troops on the Zimbabwean refugee camps in Mozambique. 675 unarmed men, women and children were brutally murdered, and the survivors made to stack the bodies of the women and children in huts which were then set on fire to attempt to hide the evidence.

The liberation movements, the UN High Commission for refugees, and the Mozambique government have asked for help in rebuilding the camps farther from the border areas. OXFAM-Canada has responded.

OXFAM supports many other projects in southern Africa; such as the SWAPO textbook project (we are providing textbooks for those who have fled the racism of Namibia, and are helping them acquire the leadership and administrative skills they were previously denied by the so called "Bantu Education" system.).

Another example of our Southern Africa projects is the Cape Verde Fishing Co-op. We are supplying the seed capital to help them re-develop an industry and food source that was lost under Portuguese colonialism.

In OXFAM we realize that providing humanitarian support is only one of the tasks that faces us, and that we also need to change the attitudes in Canada that allow situations like this to exist.

And so we are also involved in Canada, supporting groups like the Development Education Centre, who like FSAC, are actively working to educate the Canadian public as to the real causes and the real solutions

to underdevelopment and injustice.

OXFAM-Canada's money comes mainly from ordinary people, people like you and me, who are concerned about the inequality and injustice in the world. OXFAM is one of the ways they express this concern.

Because OXFAM is involved in controversial areas like southern Africa it is harder to raise money. We need your support.

This Christmas, express your solidarity with the people in southern Africa...send your donations to: OXFAM-CANADA, Box 12000, Calgary.

P.S.: OXFAM spends your money wisely. Last year, despite a postal strike during our main fundraising period, our administration costs were only 27% of our total income. This year we are aiming at 20%. This money for OXFAM to choose and evaluate projects that work.

For more information contact Jim Crowell, c/o The Edmonton Oxfam Committee, 9915 - 89 Avenue, phone 433-3270.

## BANK DRIVE CONTINUES

The United Bank Workers, Local 2 of the Service Office and Retail Workers Union of Canada has applied for union certification to represent the employees of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in Port McNeill, BC.

These workers, and many other bank employees across the province are joining the United Bank Workers because they feel that bank employees have not been treated fairly by the banks in terms of benefits and wages. They see joining SORWUC and bargaining collectively as the only way to improve their situation.

The United Bank Workers, Local 2 of the Service Office and Retail Workers Union of Canada now has applications before the Canada Labour Relations Board for 16 branches of 4 different banks.

## MITCHELL SLAMS WC

The Select Committee on Workers' Compensation, tabling its report in the Legislature early in November, has rejected appeals by a number of organizations, including the Alberta Federation of Labour, to upgrade minimum benefits for widows of victims of industrial accidents and those on permanent, total disability pensions.

The executive secretary of the AFL, Eugene Mitchell, charged that in ignoring many serious problems brought to its attention in the submission of briefs, the committee has shown itself insensitive to the financial needs of widows and the totally disabled. "These people should not be consigned to a life of poverty because of an industrial accident, yet the committee has done just that," Mitchell said.

Noting the disparity between the present minimum pension allotted to widows and the current minimum wages, Mitchell accuses the committee of showing "an unfortunate insensitivity and disregard to people in these categories, who surely deserve and need more than they are now receiving."

PRAIRIE STAR is published by PRAIRIE STAR PRESS GRAPHIX & TYPESETTING, a collective print shop, out of offices located at 10737-95 Street. Ph. 429-2998.

Published monthly, the deadline for all articles, letters, etc. is the Friday before the Monday of publication. All letters, articles, etc. should be signed and preferably typewritten, double-spaced.

Advertising is accepted at the discretion of the PRAIRIE STAR Coordinating Committee. PRAIRIE STAR's advertising rates are: \$1.00 per column inch (60 inches to the page).

PRAIRIE STAR is typeset and pasted up by volunteer labour.

## STAFF THIS ISSUE

John Payzant, Rick Wagler, Jim Crowell, Naomi Rankin, Hans Smits, Karen Rowsell, Patricia Hughes, Andrea Rogers, Ann Harvey, Jim Elphinstone, Malcolm Archibald, David Nock, Chris Bullock, Martin McPherson, Dave Berger, Don Barr, Jill Konkin, Vern Harper

## THE HUNGRY I

good food

cheap prices

OPEN MON. - THURS.  
til 1 a.m.  
Fri. & Sat.  
ALL NITE

9820 JASPER AVE  
426-3324

## FED FINGERS SCABS

The Alberta Federation of Labour, at the request of CUPE Local 52, has publicized to all affiliated unions the names of firms hired by the City of Edmonton who were involved in strike breaking and requested "that all Trade Unions and Trade Unionists refrain from working with or communicating with employees of these firms should they at any time be hired to work alongside people in our movement."

The firms which contracted with the City to perform work normally done by employees in CUPE Local 52 are:

Stanley & Associates Engineering  
11748 Kingsway Avenue

Drews Janitor Service & Window Cleaners Ltd.  
6530-104 Street

Complete book service  
Information Canada agent

## Fifth Business BOOKS

10457 JASPER AVENUE AT FIFTH STREET  
429-1160

## norwood books

USED BOOKS

BOUGHT & SOLD

ART PRINTS

11302 95 STREET  
474-4446

## HIGH LEVEL NATURAL FOODS CO-OP

FRUIT

GRAINS

VEGETABLES

LEGUMES

DAIRY

8532 109 STREET  
433-6807

## ananda books



meditational  
spiritual  
parapsychology

10801 WHYTE AVENUE  
439-0841



## MOREEDEN RETURNS



I write  
as I bleed

My friends, it's good to be back after an unfortunate exile from the pages of this journal. The pressure to return was considerable. Phone calls in the middle of the night from people with breathing problems, offers of free meals at Fuller's and visits from Teamsters have made your message clear. Fellow subscribers, I'll stick with PRAIRIE STAR if you will.

For those with silver spoons in their mouth and gold in their teeth the opening of the multi-million dollar Citadel Theatre complex was a time for well chosen words and stuck-up phrases.

After a week-long campaign of canonizing fund raiser Joseph Shocter Q.C. my stomach began to make rude noises in polite company.

This man-hero of the bourgeoisie, this wooer of landed gentry, this seducer of society's idle rich, this pickpocket of the proletariat who brought theatre to unwashed Edmontonians deserves his due.

EDMONTON REPORT kissed his ring, CFRN washed his feet and the JOURNAL raised his throne. Holy! Holy! Holy!

What good fortune Edmontonians have in such a man and his coterie of well-oiled Albertans. They are the men and women who travel in black mercedes with mink in hand and Doberman by side. The lusting souls who ventured west not for free land but "opportunity" to acquire and advertise. And for those who have "arrived" what better way to announce wealth than the blatant signal to eastern Canada that they too can watch Shakespeare, tolerate nude scenes and applaud at appropriate moments.

And what of the artistic director, the man brought in as corroborative evidence that Edmonton's money is as green as that of Bay Street. He told his adoring throng on opening night that his theatre was for all--even the workers for whom a special performance was held the evening previous were welcome. In his words, "They are my kind of people."

Next year when the million dollar deficit for the upkeep of the palace arrives on our doorstep we will hear Joe Shocter plead to Edmontonians: "I have brought you culture--you people owe me!" I say let's not give him what we owe him but what he and his group deserve.

I urge all cinema freaks, TV addicts and radio junkies to write me, Moreeden, care of PRAIRIE STAR, 10737-95 Street.

## Absenteeism

According to the Financial Times worker absenteeism cost Canadian employers \$3.8 billion in wages last year.

Nearly 745 million hours of pro-

duction were lost to sickness, tardiness, fatigue and a variety of other causes, including decisions by some workers simply to take time off from work.

Such absenteeism surpasses that caused by strikes and lockouts.

Production workers have a higher rate of absenteeism than office workers.

## NDP EYES CIVIC POLITICS

# Reform slate mooted

There is an urgent need to install progressive representation on Edmonton City Council.

And such representation has to be based on direction from the labour movement and workers in general.

This was the most important consensus reached at a meeting of the Edmonton NDP Metro Council held Dec. 8 at CUPE Hall.

Although the meeting was called by the local NDP, representatives and interested persons from various other organizations were present.

The aim of the meeting was to form some concrete idea of the feasibility of running a slate of candidates on a progressive plat-

It was pointed out by the panel, also consisting of Edmonton and District Labour Council President Ann Baranyk, and Alberta NDP President Howard Leeson, that Edmonton City Council has always been dominated by business and land speculation interests.

Only the labour movement "has consistently had progressive policies for municipal government" asserted Leadbeater.

"That provides the basis for unity around which the NDP and others can join."

While there was general agreement on this last point, there was no concrete decision made on the from a political organization should take to represent progressive forces in the city.

Leadbeater, who is supported by the Edmonton Voters Association, strongly urged the development of a coalition of progressive forces, presumably under the banner of the EVA. He felt this would cut across "narrow partisan lines."

Leadbeater pointed out that "we do not get elected simply to gain partisan advantage."

"Rather, we get elected on the basis of certain policies in order to effect change."

Howard Leeson was not in complete agreement with this approach. He mentioned that the NDP's perception of the importance of city politics is changing. He and other NDP supporters at the meeting



Ann Baranyk

form in the next civic election.

As chairperson Jim Anderson stated, "we wanted to have a general meeting of the membership of various progressive groups in order to have a grassroots indication of what direction we (the NDP) should take--whether to enter city politics as a party, or in a wider coalition."

Anderson, as well as Alderman David Leadbeater, one of the speakers on a panel, emphasized the importance of building a progressive civic political movement now.

They warned that the situation on city council is polarizing, and that the next election would see an attempt by a conservative business oriented group to gain greater control of city council, including the mayor's seat.

This new group appears to be supported by powerful business interests, such as Syncrude.



David Leadbeater

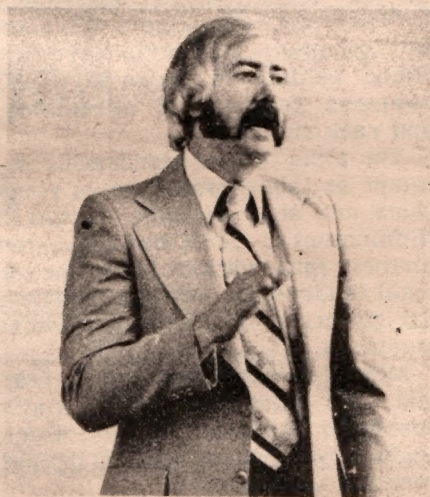
seemed to be leaning to the idea of running NDP candidates in the next civic election.

However, Ann Baranyk stated that the Edmonton and District Labour Council would be more interested in some kind of coalition rather than a specific party.

While the matter was not settled, it is clear that some people do feel the necessity to build a strong left-wing movement at the civic level.

As Anderson emphasized, "Until you start challenging private corporate decisions, you are not really facing up to the problems of civic politics and the city."

While this meeting made a start in that direction, it remains to be seen whether such a movement will attempt to address civic politics from a socialist perspective, or whether it will become a vehicle for liberal reform.



Howard Leeson



# LEGAL AID

A self-help  
column



by STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES

Now you've done it. You've started legal proceedings against someone in Small Claims Court, and you'd better be ready for them to fight back.

Although there's a chance your opponent may decide to settle your claim out of court, he will likely decide to defend himself against your claim.

In fact he may go further than that and counterclaim. This means that he is claiming you are in the wrong, and that you owe him money.

For example, suppose you are making a claim against a landlord who did not return your damage deposit when you moved out of his apartment.

The landlord may counterclaim that you did more damage than the deposit would pay for, and that in fact you owe him more money.

If your opponent does counterclaim, he must file the counterclaim at the Small Claims Court at least 10 days before the date set for your appearance. He must also serve you with a copy of the counterclaim at least six days before the appearance.

If you are served with a counterclaim, be prepared to defend yourself against it in court.

## WITNESSES

You are allowed to call witnesses at the trial and witnesses who back up your story will add weight to your case.

You should have no difficulty in persuading friendly witnesses to appear in court. But remember, as witnesses they will be under oath to tell the truth, and must do so even if what they say does not help you.

There may be witnesses who have information which you want the court to hear, but who do not want to testify. If their information is vital to your case, you may have them subpoenaed.

A subpoena is a document which required a witness to appear in court. The officials at the Small Claims Court office will tell you how to obtain one.

You must deliver the subpoena to the witness personally. No other way will do. You must also give the witness a sum of money for his time, approximately \$10.50. If you win your case, you may get it back when the judge awards costs.

## YOUR DAY IN COURT

On the appointed day, you should appear in court. If you don't, your claim may be cancelled. Even worse, if your opponent has counterclaimed and you don't show up, he may be allowed to go ahead and prove his counterclaim without your being there to challenge it.

If your opponent does not show up, you may be allowed to prove your case.

If neither of you appear, the claim may be cancelled.

continued page 9

## LABOUR NOTES

The United Steelworkers of America has failed in a raiding attempt on the Canadian Association of Industrial, Mechanical & Allied Workers at a Vancouver foundry.

According to CAIMAW secretary-treasurer Jess Succamore, the vote at A-1 Steel & Iron Foundry Ltd. was 51-44 in favor of staying in CAIMAW.

Succamore added, "Our record is intact of not having lost any members that have joined us." The foundry workers earlier left the Steelworkers to join CAIMAW.

The Steelworkers' drive to recover the foundry workers was personally directed by their top Canadian executive, Lyn Williams.

ers. Since then, four compensation awards have been made in such cases.

The membership of the Letter Carriers Union of Canada (LCUC) was recently given a rude awakening.

According to an article in the Financial Times, the LCUC national executive has been conducting secret talks with representatives of the Post Office Department.

The discussions, held at a hotel in Montebello, Ontario were initiated behind the backs of LCUC business reps, local executives, and rank and file.

The aims of this clandestine attempt at labor-management relations are still unclear. Local 15 (Edmonton) of LCUC has requested further information from the national leadership, and has censured the practice of holding secret meetings.

Members expressed some fear that the Montebello talks might pre-empt certain issues which ought to be discussed during formal contract negotiations.

"There's no reason for the national executive to go behind the backs of the membership," said one letter carrier.

## NFU conference dubbed success

The Seventh Annual Convention of the National Farmers Union held in Edmonton December 6-10 and attended by 600 farm people from across Canada has been described by NFU Region 7 Co-ordinator, Bill Dascavich of Mundare, as one of the most successful to date in terms of its positive attitude toward the future and its high standard in policy debate.

Mr. Dascavich was re-elected to the NFU Board by Region 7 delegates, together with Perry Cowan, New Norway and Ed Motowlo, Westlock. Joan Bablitz of Bruce Alberta was re-elected Womens Advisory Committee Member and Stan Schamuhn, Leduc, as the Junior Advisory Committee Member.

Agriculture Minister Marvin Moore in addressing the members on the opening day of the convention congratulated the NFU on its education programs directed toward advancing rural leadership skills. However, the minister drew a crisp reaction to his defence of the open system of marketing livestock and his warning that farmers should not be drawn into trading off "their freedoms for price protection".

His view was challenged in the question period by a delegate who asked the Minister whether he really thought farmers had any freedom or power to negotiate a fair price for their products two or three times a year as did the oil companies. He asked the Minister if he would consider giving producers the necessary bargaining legislation.

Another delegate identifying himself as a cow-calf operator stated he had been forced over the last three years to sell his beef at much below cost of production and contended he was prepared to sacrifice some so-called "personal freedom" in exchange for a fair price for his production.

Moore agreed this was an opinion now held by an increasing number of Alberta livestock producers.

An emergency resolution which received unanimous approval was introduced to the convention by Ellis Skogstad, Barrhead, and called upon the Alberta Government to conduct a full judicial inquiry into the operation of the Alberta Export Agency, which last February indicated to potential foreign buyers that calves were not available in Alberta for export.

Edmonton book publisher and well known Canadian nationalist, Mel Hurtig, described the growing extent of foreign takeover of Canadian resource industries and reported 1975 had been a record year for takeovers but 1976 would once again break the record.

Currently, he told his audience, 97% of the automobile industry; 94% of the aircraft industry; 92% of the rubber industry; 88% of the electrical apparatus industry and 99.9% of the petroleum industry were foreign owned, and recently for the first time there was evidence of the invasion into the prairies of the multinational Cargill grain corporation.

"Not only have you sold your country off... you have put up most of the money" Hurtig told delegates. He said Canadian banks readily loan American firms money for take-

overs, and as far back as 1970, 89% of the money for American purchases of Canadian industries had come from Canadian banks.

Dr. A.K. Davis of the Sociology Department, University of Alberta told the convention that farmers were an underdog group in Canada with little political clout and that clout is diminishing.

While the farm sector had accounted for 10.2% of the Canadian employed labour force in 1963, it was only 5.8% in 1972.

All over the world, he said underdogs are fighting back.

"Farmers must seek allies, and become part of a Canadian people's coalition", he urged.

The convention re-elected Roy Atkinson of Springwater, Saskatchewan as president and Jean Leahy of Fort St. John, B.C., as Women's President. Walter Miller of Tara, Ontario, lost in his bid for re-election as vice-president to Jim Mayne of Emerald, Prince Edward Island.

## Split forms in B.C. Fed

The annual convention of the B.C. Federation of Labour last month was dominated by a determined attempt to unseat secretary-treasurer Len Guy.

Guy held onto his post by defeating challenger Art Kube 534-418 following a bitter campaign.

The main issue dividing the convention was whether the federation should continue to pursue militant trade union policies or, should moderate its approach and align itself closer to the NDP politically.

The anti-Guy forces are concentrated in the International Woodworkers, Steelworkers, CUPE, Machinists, Hotel & Restaurant Workers, and B.C. Government Employees Union. Guy was able to attract a few defectors from these unions, while holding on to his own supporters, mainly in the building trades, waterfront unions, telephone workers, paper workers, and food unions.

Commenting on his victory, Guy said "It shows a majority of the delegates are willing to put the trade union movement first."

A spokesman for the opposition charged "...the current leadership of the federation is light years ahead of the rank & file. They're out of touch. I don't think the leaders' hard-line militancy represents the views of the membership."

Little likelihood is seen of the two sides burying the hatchet, particularly as the Guy forces now dominate the Federation's executive.

Some observers have been predicting an outright split in the Federation. Such a division would have strong reverberations in the provincial NDP, possibly resulting in a new political party.



# Leonard Peltier speaks out

Q: The judge at your extradition hearing in Vancouver said the issues involved in your case are local American issues and should be resolved in an American court. Why do you keep insisting that Canadians judge the merits of your case?

A: First of all, we as native people don't recognize the border lines. We are all brothers and sisters; native people from Mexico, South America, Canada, the US; and the Canadian natives are having the same problems that we are having in the US, which are land, treaty rights, basic human rights.

Secondly, there's no guarantee I will receive a fair trial. My co-defendants got a change of venue (from South Dakota to Iowa) only after many threats on their lives, beatings, a lot of money spent on jury surveys, and of course a lot of hard work from the lawyers. Now we've been getting some press statements made by the FBI that I am their last scapegoat. They are going to go all out to get a conviction. Knowing them, that means threatening witnesses and fixing evidence.

Q: Why have all these leading AIM figures from the US, like Russell Means, Vernon Bellecourt and John Trudell come to Vancouver to work on your case?

A: Vern Bellecourt always comes to trials of AIM people. He knows, and the others do, too, that the trials are just one stage in the war, that criminal charges are a way of punishing us and attempting to silence us for our political beliefs. We stand together because we are brothers and sisters. I would do the same for them.

This costs us time and money and energy, but we have to fight it that way because that's one way the government tries to oppress us. Russell Means has had 22 charges and only been convicted once. After Wounded Knee, there were 1,000 indictments but less than a dozen convictions. Most were thrown out for government misconduct. And it's not only us. It happens to blacks, Chicanos and now the Puerto Ricans.

Q: But that is an American problem...

A: It's happening right here. The US has exported it to Canada. My defence people have been stopped at the border, turned back because the FBI told the Canadians they are wanted for crimes. Those were lies. Defence people have been harassed on the streets of Vancouver by the police, told to get out of town, had their doors kicked in.

The FBI was sitting in the court room (during the extradition hearing) taking notes on the Pine Ridge people who were testifying on my behalf about conditions down there. My friend Edgar Bear Runner even told the judge he was afraid to talk after seeing an FBI agent who had been armed at Pine Ridge right there in the Vancouver court room...

Q: Didn't FBI informer Douglas Durham, who penetrated the inner councils of AIM, testify to a US congressional committee that AIM people on both sides of the border are smuggling guns back and forth, and that AIM has close ties to communist elements here and in the US?

A: I think one of the best things that can be said about that was what the sheriff in Kenora (Ont.) said. He said it was a lot of bull, there was no cache of guns, and he should know...

As far as you links with communism are concerned I will not be so hypocritical as to condemn another form of government, such as the communistic one, that has never done my people any wrong. The enemy that I see is the capitalist system. They're the ones that have committed great

battle is for control of the land. It used to be useless land--that's why it was left to us--but now with technology advancing, and demand going up, we have quantities of oil, gas, coal, grazing lands, forests, natural gas and others.

We believe this is one of the reasons why the government has put such an oppression on us--to steal what little we have left, to give us a few thousand dollars apiece and then rip out the billions of dollars that are in the land.

Q: What about on the Pine Ridge Reservation? Is control of the land the central issue?

A: At Pine Ridge, it's war. People have been terrorized, shot at, beaten up, burned out of their homes, even killed. In the last few years, since Wounded Knee, there have been dozens of violent deaths

didn't exist. But, well, their acquittals are going to make it tougher for me. The FBI is down to its last suspect--me. They want to make some Indian person pay for their anti-Indian policy. They still have John Doe warrants outstanding, and they have shown they'll use any methods to nail someone.

I won't get a fair trial because they will threaten witnesses, they will corrupt witnesses, they will manufacture evidence. They tried to do this against Dino and Bobby, only they weren't subtle enough, at least not the first time.

Q: Indian reservations, across North America contain large quantities of natural resources: oil, coal, wood and natural gas. If the Indian people win their fight for a traditional way of life, will they attempt to deny these resources to the rest of the North American people?

A: We wouldn't deny any of this to the non-native people in North America. We're trying to get control of this, we're not trying to deny it to anybody, but we want to be able to make the living off it. We want to be able to make the high profits off it. We want to be able to direct where that money is going to go, and where that money is going to be spent.

We want to make sure that the land is put back the way it was, because on the Navajo reservation, Black Mesa is completely destroyed after Kennecott and a couple of other coal miners have been in there destroying the land, and the people over there aren't getting any money out of it. They get very little percentage out of the billions of dollars that are coming out of there.

Q: Are you treated the same as the other prisoners in Oakhalla?

A: I'm not being treated like the other prisoners, that's for sure. As you can see, I have handcuffs on here while I'm talking to you. Anytime I leave my cell I'm being handcuffed and one or two guards go with me. I didn't get any exercise outside from the time I got here in February until my lawyers started taking legal action against the prison in June. Now I sometimes get half an hour in the afternoon.

All my legal stuff is censored. I can't sit and write notes with my lawyers on account of the handcuffs and I can't do it up for myself because it's being censored. I think I'm being denied a proper legal consultation.

Q: Why do you think you are being treated differently?

A: The warden tells my lawyers I'm a model prisoner, but then he also told them that he was going on information given to him by the FBI that I was a security risk, that AIM was going to come up from the US and bust me out. Even my own baby son is a security risk--I can't touch him and hold him once a month like other prisoners can with their families.



genocide among my people, and they're the ones that have broken every treaty, every promise, have massacred millions of native people. So as far as communism goes, I have nothing against Communism. But I'm not a communist. I'm an Indian.

Q: You're saying that the US government considers the Indian movement to be a threat to domestic stability. Can't your differences be settled by negotiations?

A: The history books show we have tried to negotiate. But more than 400 treaties were violated. The

on the reservation--mostly traditional people, AIM people. Most of them are unsolved. The government pays for squads of Indians--goons, we call them, to do this.

Q: In the Butler Robideau trial, two of your three co-accused have been acquitted of the murder charges, and the third has had his charges dropped for lack of evidence. Why don't you go back and stand trial?

A: I was very very happy to hear that Dino (Butler) and Bobby (Robideau) got off. The evidence against them was very weak. It



# COUNTER

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

The Citizen's Counter Conference on Energy and Northern Development (CCC) attracted 1500 people.

The MacKenzie Valley pipeline proposal is one of the most important questions facing Canada now. The whole structure of the Canadian economy will be affected by government decisions concerning this and four or five other proposals for northern pipelines.

The Canadian economy has always been based on the extraction and export of resources. Fish, furs, timber, minerals, wheat, oil, gas—Confederation might just as well have been a plot by the CPR. There are all kinds of questions which ought to be but probably won't be answered before any decisions are made about northern pipelines.

## PIPELINE

How much gas is there? Does it warrant such a colossal expenditure of money and effort? Will it go to the U.S. or to replace exports to the U.S.? Will it be the basis of enduring industry and employment, and if so, in what part of the country? Not to mention whether it will bring about the destruction of the peoples of northern Canada?

These are the questions the counter-Conference placed before 1500 people in Edmonton. And a certain start was made on answering them. Basically, the answer depends on who controls the conditions of construction and operation. So the CCC came up with exactly the right position—support for Native land claims in the north and a ten year moratorium on pipeline construction.

Support for Native land claims is very important not just to the north but to all of Canada. Either there will be a repeat of the process that took place in the prairies a hundred years ago—the elimination of the economic base of the Native people's life and culture and their decimation by alcohol, disease and social chaos—or for the first time anywhere in Canada a people will be able to decide on economic development in its own interests. And the interests of Native people in the north are complementary to the interests of working people of all economic sectors in the south. This could make a dent in the dictatorial control of giant corporations over the whole structure of our economy and its attendant government policies.

The second demand—a ten year moratorium on any northern pipeline construction—met with some objections on the grounds that it would give the government an excuse to drag its heels on land claim settlements. However, the gas isn't going to run away, the pipeline would be more economically reasonable later than sooner, and then years might give some scope for the development of people's organizations, in both north and south, which are capable of placing some limits on the plundering that characterizes corporate activities. When it comes to strategy for achieving these goals, the conference showed some weaknesses, quite understandable ones, which we could all spend the next ten years overcoming.

The major weakness, and that from which all others stem, is a lack of understanding of who holds economic and political power, how they exercise it and why. This ignorance is natural enough since we are the ones excluded from the exercise of power. However, it gives rise to oversimplification or confusion on the level of strategy. There was much talk about "returning decision making to the people affected by the decisions" as if we had ever had power in the first place, as if the whole political structure had gotten out of hand, rather than having developed in the first place to keep power out of our hands. Many speakers, as well as members of the audience, were quite vague about how this "returning of decision making" was to be accomplished. Either it was some vague but minor adjustment to the status quo, or just a matter of talking sense to the government which had missed our sensible rational arguments by accident, or a matter of changing people's attitudes but leaving intact the political economic structure. This amounted to enunciations of "the

## IDEOLOGY OF GROWTH

ideology of growth" coupled with appeals to the populace to re-insulate their houses to save on energy.

Now there's a basic flaw in this. It is not industrialization as such that causes pollution or energy shortages. Nor is it people's desire for a secure and comfortable life. It is the specific form of economic organization—production for profit—that is, capitalism—rather than production to fulfill people's needs, that is, socialism.

This is not just a matter of different tastes in social organization, or abstract justice or morality. It is a question of social survival. Through the same inexperience that led people to hope for some kind of loving reconciliation with the oil companies, nobody happened to mention that

## ENERGY

the "energy" shortage is only the first to be explicitly publicized. The industrialized countries cannot go on in the ever more wasteful manner of capitalist economic activity for much longer before everything runs short. "Energy", metals, minerals, everything. The forests will be plundered beyond the point of regenerating themselves, the food crisis will be a real shortage rather than a crime of distribution of land. If we do not overthrow capitalism while there is still something left to build socialism with, we face the prospect of the collapse of industry as such. And that means the end to any hope of a secure or comfortable life for the hundreds of millions who cannot support themselves by feudal style agriculture. The excesses of the corporations must be curbed, not to make everything



WALLY FIRTH, NDP MP FOR NWT

right again, but to gain time and experience for the vitally important matter of overthrowing their rule.

The CCC did a good job of identifying certain trends in capitalist society and their negative results, i.e. the need for continual expansion of production and its attendant waste and pollution. What the CCC did not say and what must be understood, is that this need for expansion is not something which might or might not happen in a capitalist society. It is the whole basis of it. Waste and pollution can perhaps be reduced somewhat by massive reform campaigns. They can be abolished only by abolishing the form of society that gives rise to them.

## CAPITALIST

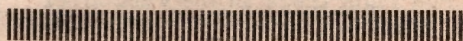
Similarly appeals to ordinary people to live a more conservationist "lifestyle" are basically beside the point. We spend our money on necessities which are quite often necessary because its profitable to deny us the alternatives. We drive our cars to the plant because the bus doesn't go there, we buy food in wasteful packaging because we'd starve if we didn't. And so on. The "change in lifestyles" is just a different version

of the "consumer as king". Theory dished out in high school economics.

This then gives rise to the "let us reason together" approach to government and corporations—as if we, represented say by the AEC, faced them as equals with resolvable differences. But we're not equal, as the Conference speakers rightly pointed out when they weren't talking strategy, and our differences are not resolvable. Either there is production for need and careful husbanding of resources or there is profit. Their reason is not our reason.

## PROFIT

However all these weaknesses are those of an organization just beginning to define its goals and its strategies. That the AEC was capable of defining precisely the right goals shows a definite potential for working out the right way of attaining them. We therefore support the AEC and urge our readers to get actively involved in it.





# CONFERENCE



## BERGER SPEAKS

by Hans Smits

"The native people are concerned that the opening of the North should not repeat the history of the opening of the West."

"The native people seek to fashion a choice of their own part and their own experience."

So spoke Justice Thomas Berger to the Citizens Counter Conference on Energy and Northern Development, held in early November in Edmonton. The Counter Conference was sponsored by the Alberta Energy Coalition, which includes church groups, environmentalists and other concerned citizens.

### NATIVE

### LAND CLAIMS

Support for native land claims in the North and a ten year moratorium on any pipeline construction were the most important conclusions reached by this conference.

Meanwhile, at the Northern Development Conference at the MacDonald Hotel, industry and government plotted the construction of the MacKenzie Valley Gas Pipe Line.

At a projected cost of \$8.4 billion, and untold human and environmental costs, the building of this pipeline would be the "greatest project in terms of capital expenditure ever undertaken by private enterprise anywhere", according to Berger.

The Counter Conference hoped to bring to public attention the potentially detrimental effects of a pipe line and put a halt to its construction.

The conference also aimed to promote the development of a more rational and conservation-oriented national energy policy.

Implicit in both aims and emphasized during the conference was the necessity for Native peoples to gain

greater control of their lives, land and resources.

This was made explicit by one of the conference speakers, George Barabee, vice-president of the NWT Indian Brotherhood: "The important question is not whether there is a pipe line, but whether we (the Dene) have control."

"It is a question of who decides and who is responsible."

Barabee emphasized exploitation of the north up to now has been "anything but development for our people."

Rather, he made clear, "it has been a process of colonization" with consequent destruction of lives and livelihood.

The Dene, Barabee said, are not against development but wish to have greater control over it.

That is why "deciding land claims first before the pipe line is a necessity."

James Arraluk, President of the Inuit Tapirisat, also spoke, representing the views of 18,500 Inuit (Eskimos).

He too emphasized the necessity of settling land claims, to ensure survival for the Inuit.

"It's scary when you feel your life threatened by destruction" Arraluk told the audience, referring to what would happen if multi-national corporations gain control of Northern resources.

### ALTERNATIVES

The other main thrust of the conference was alternatives to the current pressures for rapid exploitation of the North by multi-national energy corporations.

Some speakers questioned whether the MacKenzie Valley Gas Pipe Line was really necessary at this time.

UBC economist John Helliwell cited independent studies indicating there was no domestic need for frontier sources of natural gas until the 1990's.

## ENVIRONMENT WORKSHOP

As far as Northern Development is concerned, the establishment of land claims is a step in the right direction.

This was one of the conclusions reached by an Environment workshop held as part of the Counter Conference on Energy and Northern Development.

The aim of the workshop, attended by thirty people, was "to establish basic environmental priorities for Northern exploitation."

Participants agreed that in addition to settlement of land claims, a ten year moratorium on construction of any pipe line in the north was a minimum requirement for the development of a "rational" approach to resource exploitation of the north.

### MORATORIUM

In addition to land claim settlements, the workshop felt a moratorium would allow time for a more complete environmental inventory of the north.

"Such an inventory would at least minimally supply baseline environmental information to determine the impact of eventual projects."

As well, greater information about the Northern environment would allow for better long-term planning.

For instance, there was a good deal of skepticism expressed about whether Northern resource exploitation is "needed" at the present time.

Implicit in the idea of a more rational approach is the need for greater public awareness and decision making, particularly by those people most directly affected by northern exploitation.

The current pressure to exploit northern sources was largely a consequence of exports to the US, he explained.

### EXPLOITATION

In addition there is increasing doubt about the MacKenzie Delta being a commercially viable source of natural gas at the present time.

Thus the main reason for building the Pipe Line would be to supply US companies.

### U. S. COMPANIES

The conference also brought to light the fact that the MacKenzie Valley Pipe Line is only one of several planned by industry and government.

For example, the pipe line most recently in the news would be built from Kitimat on the Northwest BC coast to Edmonton.

Like the MacKenzie Valley line, the Kitimat pipe line involves territory subject to land claims by Native groups. It is also designed to process oil and gas for US markets.

Workshop participants urgently supported greater access to information.

They believe this could be achieved through a "Freedom of Information Act".

It was felt future environmental damage could be minimized if public groups could more adequately assess the effects of development projects beforehand.

### RESOURCE

### EXPLOITATION

The group strongly believed in stronger legislation as a means to protect the environment. "by re-protect the environment, "by removing loop-holes, by establishing strong regulations and by assuring that laws will be administered with sufficient force to crack down on environmental law-breakers."

One interesting proposal would be the establishment by law of "locus standi"; this would give people most affected by polluters the legal right to prosecute when governments refuse to do so.

This is one reason the workshop saw the establishment of land claims as a step in the right direction, as far as environmental protection is concerned.

Native groups would then have the right to launch environmental prosecutions.

While many laudable proposals were made by this workshop, there were also some glaring weaknesses.

First, the belief that the present governments in Canada would adopt rational and progressive legislation and then enforce it in the interests of both environmental protection and the lives of people seems naive. Governments have up to now acted in the interests of huge resource exploitation industries, who have gone ahead with utter disregard for people's rights and environmental protection.

Thus the workshop failed to examine crucial political dimensions in the discussion of the environment.

Second, the workshop failed to consider that the pattern of northern development, or at least the form of decision making, may change if the Dene and other northern Native groups are successful in achieving land claims and political autonomy. Therefore, support of Northern land claims is one of the most important actions people can take, including those concerned about the environment.





by Paul Graham

Fred Plain, an Ojibwa and researcher for Grand Council Treaty #9 spoke at a series of meetings organized by the Committee Against Reed's Greed in Winnipeg Nov. 7. Labelling the recently announced memorandum of understanding between Reed and the Ontario cabinet as a "death warrant for 10,000 native people and seven communities" he laid out a chronology of events that showed the true hypocrisy of the Ontario government and the Reed Paper Co.

## Death warrant

March 1974: Premier Davis announces plans to build a new mill in the Red Lake - Ear Falls region. No mention is made of mill size or timber limits required.

September 1974: Ministry of Natural Resources releases its Strategic Land Use Plan for North Western Ontario. A map of future cutting areas for 1974-1991 does not include the proposed Reed expansion.

March 1975: Minister of Natural Resources Leo Bernier informs Treaty #9 of the timber limits proposed for the Reed mill. Treaty #9 Chief Andrew Rickard asks that Cree and Ojibway people be fully involved in the negotiations with Reed and any studies of the social, economic and environmental implications of such a scheme.

Spring and Summer 1975: Treaty #9 conducts independent research on the Reed scheme. Preliminary data indicates serious damage to native people and their forest environment.

Fall 1975: Ontario Cabinet has not replied to Treaty #9 request of March 1975. A Ministry of Natural Resources official indicates that timber limits have been set aside for Reed, and that the license will be issued by June 1976.

January 1976: Treaty #9 asks Reed Paper for a copy of the environmental assessment report prepared by Acres Environmental Consultants. Public Relations manager for Reed refuses, saying that Reed, as a private company, is not required to release this report. The Ontario Cabinet still has not replied to Chief Rickard's request of March 1975.

Informed sources tell Treaty #9 that the Reed scheme will go ahead, regardless of social, economic and environmental considerations and that public participation is being actively discouraged.

In response to these revelations Chief Rickard holds a press conference denouncing the Ontario Cabinet and the Reed Paper Co. for their lack of concern for the native people, the general public and the environment.

February 1976: Five hundred demonstrators show their opposition to Reed's destruction of Ontario's northland through mercury pollution of the English-Wabago River System and the proposed Reed forestry scheme at the Reed sponsored exhibit: Changing Visins: The Canadian Landscape in Toronto.

Reed Vice-President Tommy Jones requests a meeting with Treaty #9. Chief Rickard says he is willing to meet if he receives a full account of Reed's plans, in-

cluding the environmental assessment report.

Jones says that the Acres Report is not yet completed. Natural Resources minister Leo Bernier admits to journalist Harry Brown that the native people have not been fully consulted to date about the Reed plans. Bernier later assured Betty Kennedy of radio station CFRB that all studies will be made public prior to any public meetings. Every municipality, every chief, every Indian man would be given a copy of the feasibility study.

Treaty #9 learns that Reed plans a single, company controlled public meeting in Dryden.

## Native people not consulted

March 1976: Treaty #9 asks Environment Minister George Kerr for a copy of the Acres Report. Mr. Kerr replies that although his ministry has received a copy of the report, Reed's instructions are that it is confidential and not to be released outside of the government.

April 1976: In a meeting of cabinet and senior civil servants Chief Rickard is informed that Reed refuses to release the Acres Report until a preliminary agreement on the scheme has been signed. According to Ministry of Natural Resources officials, this preliminary agreement will be followed by 2 years of comprehensive studies, including a full inventory of the area's forest resources.

This is the first time anyone has mentioned a preliminary agreement and Treaty 9 is assured that public cooperation is on Reed's timetable. Later in April, a senior civil servant tells Treaty 9 that the forest inventory for Reed's scheme has already been completed.

June 1976: Reed Paper Co. signs a preliminary agreement with the Ontario cabinet. Where is the Acres Environmental Assessment Report???

June 1976: Rumours abound that Premier Davis has given personal assurances to the parent company (Reed International) that the forest scheme will go ahead as planned.

October 1976: The memorandum of understanding was signed between the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Reed Paper Co.

Today: The struggle continues, for a halt to Reed's expansion, for full public access to all pertinent information, and for a public inquiry into resource development in Northern Ontario. Fred Plain stated that Treaty 9 is confident in its abilities, but added that public support is crucial.

# REED PAPER CHRONOLOGY



## WHY INQUIRY?

by Paul Graham

Grand Council Treaty #9 is calling upon the Ontario government to halt any resource development in Northern Ontario until a public inquiry into resource development has been held. Events have shown the Ontario government's hypocrisy in the Reed affair and its cynical approach to consultation with those most directly affected by "development" in the North.

### Government hypocrisy

That, in itself, should be reason enough for demanding an inquiry. But there is more, as Wilbur Jones of Treaty #9 pointed out at the Winnipeg demonstration.

"As early as last February, we requested that the Ontario government conduct a public inquiry. At that point in time we were informed by professionals that there was grave danger in reforestation practices throughout Ontario. Forest based industries are vital to the livelihood and viability of Northern Ontario.

"If the forest industry dies, in all likelihood, native communities will die--white communities will die. It just isn't worthwhile for a government to hide behind facts

and figures that they will not produce and say that the forest industry is thriving.

"Also, in Northern Ontario we have mining developments--mining developments on the scale of open-pit mining--mining that has already endangered several communities and if continued, will endanger the whole North.

### Resource development

"Resource development as far as water diversion schemes are concerned--some several years back the corp of engineers in the United States government was in Northern Ontario, and performed feasibility studies on several of our water systems. Theoretically, these plans were set aside four or five years ago. They are now beginning to raise their head again.

"We have the possibility of polar gas cutting through Northern Ontario if and when it is found feasible. Now when I say feasible, I do not presume to give one iota of strength to the feasibility studies of a government that does its own studies, does not release the data and has, of course, lost the confidence of the good majority of the people in the North, not only native people, but others."



# Anti Reed protests continue

by Paul Granham & Andrea Rodgers

On Oct. 21, an estimated 250 people protested the opening of the Reed Paper Co. sponsored art exhibit "Changing Visions: The Canadian Landscape" at the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

The picketers included about 100 native people from the White dog and Grassy Narrows reserves --two communities now reeling under the devastating effects of methyl mercury poisoning--Minimata Disease--for which the Reed subsidiary, Dryden Pulp and Paper Co. is responsible.

The demonstrators, spirits buoyed by traditional native drumming and singing, continued their protest in near-freezing weather for several hours. Organized by the Committee Against Reed's Greed (CARG), the protest was the first effort in what CARG spokesperson Leslie Currie characterised as "a long struggle". She stated CARG was formed in Winnipeg to support the demands of Grand Councils Treaty #9 and #3. Treaty #9 is

calling for a halt to all resource development north of 50 until a public inquiry on resource development is held. (For Treaty #3 demands, see Prairie Star Vol. 2, No. 6)

Wilbur Jones, an executive assistant for Grand Council Treaty #9, pointed to the danger presented by a Reed expansion. "Reed's past cutting habits on their present four million acres prove they have no concern for the people, the environment, or the forest industry; they have no concern whatsoever, other than gaining quick profits and leaving."

Fred Plain, a Treaty Rights Researcher for Treaty #9 continued by stating that there is "no way that we can accept the severe environmental damage (that will occur) if this project is allowed to go on."

Wally McKay, a community development planner with Grand Council Treaty #9 summed up the thoughts of the Council representatives on the picket line: "With-

out an economic base communities die. The Reed development will destroy any opportunity for the communities to survive. We're going to stop this development at all costs--because it's like taking the bread off the table of our people--and we're not going to stand by and let this thing happen."

When the same exhibit was displayed in Edmonton during September, an anti-Reed leafleting campaign was organized. The anti-Reed group also requested the Edmonton Art Gallery put up an accompanying exhibited stating the objections of some of the participating artists. These artists are protesting the use of their art for the promotion of Reed's corporate image as a protector of the environment.

When asked over the phone about the counter-exhibit, Galley public relations officer, Iolani Domingo denied having received it. After the anti-Reed group sent a letter to the Gallery and to concerned individuals, the art Galley did put

up the exhibit--in an inconspicuous corner of one of the rooms containing the Reed exhibit.

The public relations officer stated in a letter of response to the anti-Reed group that the Gallery had no legal obligation to put up the bulletin board since the agreement to display it was made between three Ontario artists and the Art Gallery of Ontario. The agreement stated the display would accompany the exhibit, Changing Visions--the Canadian Landscape, but it would be up to each individual art gallery as to whether the artists statements would be shown.

Changing Visions--the Canadian Landscape is opening at the Glenbow Institute in Calgary on Thursday, Dec. 16. Plans are being made for a protest on some level, and according to one of the Calgary organizers the Glenbow has already shown a suspicious and hostile attitude when Reed's sponsorship of the exhibit is questioned.

## Legal aid

continued from page 4

There will probably be a number of cases being heard on the day of your appearance. Wait until your name is called, and announce your presence to the judge.

The judge will first determine if the claim is being disputed by your opponent. Then he will determine if everyone is ready to go to trial.

Probably the judge will set a date in the future for the trial to be held. However if the case is a simple one and everyone is ready, he may hold the trial immediately.

The first thing to remember is that you're not Perry Mason and nobody expects you to be.

Don't get too nervous. The judge has seen hundreds of people like yourself presenting their own cases and is probably sympathetic. He certainly does not expect a polished professional.

### TAKING THE STAND

When your name is called in the courtroom, you will be asked to step forward to one of the two desks in front of the judge. One desk is for the plaintiff (that's you); the other is for the defendant.

First the judge will ask if there are any changes in your claim. If so, explain them to him.

Then you will have to take the witness stand. You will be asked to swear an oath (or affirm) that

you will tell the truth, and then you will be asked to explain your claim.

The judge may ask you questions as you tell your story. He may ask you to skip over things which you think are very important, and ask you many questions about things which you think are not important.

Don't let this upset you. In the first place, facts which you might think are unimportant may actually be vital to your case, and the judge will try to bring these out.

Also remember, the judge has many cases to hear. He's not interested in the story of your life.

### CROSS EXAMINATION

After you've finished telling your story, your opponent will have a chance to question you on it. This is called cross examination.

It may also be an upsetting experience. Your opponent probably disagrees with some of the things you've said and may try to trip you up with his questions. The most important thing to remember is to stay calm and just tell what happened.

### CALLING YOUR WITNESSES

After you have told your side of the case and have been cross examined, it is time for you to call your witnesses if you have any.

You will question your witnesses first, then your opponent will have the chance to cross examine them.

## Marauding hassles Natives

Recent events in Ontario underline the need for new direction and focus for contemporary archaeological studies in light of a new case of cultural imperialism.

Walter Kenyon, field archaeologist for the Royal Ontario Museum was placed under citizen's arrest last month by members of the Union of Ontario Indians in an effort to halt excavations at a Neutral Indian gravesite in Grimsby, Ontario. Kenyon was subsequently charged under the Criminal Code with indecency to bodies and three counts under the Cemeteries Act.

Here, once again, Native culture is exploited, ostensibly in a search for knowledge, but more often in pursuit of another publication. Kenyon himself has adopted a missionary attitude towards the gathering of knowledge. He sees part of his mission as educating natives about their past. Following his arrest, he noted, "those political Indians didn't know they were Neutrals until I told them. Maybe I should have said they're Vikings."

The dig at Grimsby was seen as a "chance for the Neutrals to get back into the history books."

Such arrogance in dealing with other cultures can only breed antagonisms, and result in further confrontations. As Larry Johnson, treaty research worker with the Union of Ontario Indians notes,

"It's a slap in the face for archaeologists to dig up our burial grounds and tell us about our history...We feel highly offended and insulted by digs such as these which are going on throughout the province with no input or consultation from native people."

However, not all relations between anthropologists and native peoples are antagonistic. A case in point is the recent work for the Dene of the Northwest Territories by members of the Anthropology Department of McMaster University. In preparing a study of prehistoric and historic land use and occupations by the native peoples, a strong case has been made for Dene land claims in the North.

More cooperation of this nature is necessary for anthropological and archaeological studies to become more relevant to the needs of Canada's native population. Confrontation in consultation with native peoples and seek to build liaisons, not antagonisms. Nowhere is the need for understanding more apparent than in the sensitive area of burials.

Archaeologists such as Walter Kenyon must not lose sight of the fact that while they are dealing with the physical remains of 'past' societies, there are still communities in existence who trace their history to that 'past' and don't want their graveyards dug up.

**10% DISCOUNT  
ON ALL STOCK**

OPEN: Wed. 6-9  
Thurs. 6-9  
Fri. 6-9  
Sat. 10-6

**erewhonn  
books**

*specializing in  
subversive literature*

**10737 95 STREET  
429-2298**





# Women in families: two views

Marian Engel's "Inside the Easter Egg" and Doris Lessing's "A Man and Two Women" are collections of short stories about sexual politics. Both are concerned with the problems of women--how they get on with men, with each other and with the world in general.

The world is viewed in various ways--as community, as milieu, as background. What follows is an attempt to contrast how these two feminist authors approach related problems.

In the Engel collection the social context seems to be more elaborate, and more important to what is going on.

One important related question which can be asked of both authors is: "Who are you writing about?" Lessing tends to be preoccupied with the tired lives of "civilised" people such as career men and women, artists, and occasionally the rich. The same old Middle Classics that have provided material for everything from Strindberg to soap operas. But while soap operas, at least, present bourgeois norms and habits as the sugar-coated ideal, Lessing, along with large numbers of other modern writers, is both critical and cynical about her "beautiful people."

While Engel does not appear to go out of her way to discuss the ordinary, she manages to do so perhaps because the problems she chooses to discuss are readily generalizable. They parallel the experience of most women, and the particular struggle of the individual character takes on a common aspect.

Engel does go on an excursion into the world of the worldly in the "Ziggy and Company" sequence which takes up perhaps a quarter of her book, and deals with the ponderous problems of Mature Adult Relationships. But unlike Lessing, she's just passing through.

Because Engel's characters are seen in a clear context the reader can understand much of why they act

as they do. In the Lessing stories this is usually more difficult. Her characters jerk and twitch to a different drum, but they do so as puppets not as actors. They rarely change, much less grow. The general impression given by the women characters is that no victory over their condition is possible, other than the negative one of escape from a set of offending circumstances. The few who do are peripheral, refugees, evacuated rather than liberated.

Engel is on particularly solid ground when discussing domestic life. She sees women's problems as primarily family problems, and in doing so touches on an important truth. Men and women, not to mention children, do not act out their passions and antagonisms in a void. And while Engel shows the family as constricting, a potential if not actual battleground, she also shows it as a place where, often in the face of tremendous odds, people manage to love each other. This is true both in the postcard perfect yet anxiety ridden family of the title story, and the more unconventional single-parent families described in "Miranda and the Lousy Latin Lover" or "Marshallene on Rape".

Lessing on the other hand deals with motherhood rather oddly. Her title story, "A Man and Two Women" describes a mutual (male) friend's visit to couple who've recently had their first child. The father is recovering nicely but the mother is hysterical. This frequently happens,

but instead of addressing the social side of this, or simply admitting that post natal depression is no less serious because commonplace, Lessing mystifies us by presenting the mother as an atavistic, primal something-or-other. Her madness is almost as ominous as it is confusing, so it's somewhat anticlimactic when all she actually gets round to doing is asking her husband to make love to her friend. He doesn't, but they all agonize a lot and the story wanders on to its befuddled conclusion.

Because they are active, most of the women in "Inside the Easter Egg" give the impression of originality and strength. In "Transformations" the central character loses her identity. One day she looks for her reflection in a mirror and it isn't there. But with great patience she goes about recovering both self and image. "The Salt Mines" is about a clandestine affair, which is saved from banality by the refreshing anti-romanticism of the two characters involved--a rather frumpy middle-aged woman, and an immigrant laborer, several years her senior, whom she has known from childhood. Their relationship is both erotic and affectionate.

Despite the heroic aspects of many of her characters, Engel has no heroines. Marshallene is probably as close as Engel comes, and aside from being unusually articulate and, it seems, tough, there is nothing unusual about her.

Lessing's strong woman is Judith

of the story of the same name. Her strength seems to lie in her detachment, from the fact that she is emotionally insular. Judith is opaque, and therefore intimidating. She values her privacy, and does her sexual trafficking very much on the sly. Sex is a bit like dirty laundry, and Judith apparently likes sex but can't stand dirt. Judith is a source of both awe and concern to her female friends, since she is both spinster and carnivore. The reader simply dislikes her.

But who is Judith anyhow? Judith's "problem", an obsessive independence, has as its material base the fact that she occupies a certain class position. But for every comfortable professional Judith there are a hundred other women whose livelihood does not permit them such high-faluting hang-ups. Judith is interesting, but not particularly relevant, and strength--real strength--has nothing to do with the repression which Judith embodies.

If it seems that Doris Lessing has suffered by this particular comparison, this doesn't mean that

I think her writing is pointless. Within the range of her own preoccupations she says a lot about women--the Golden Notebook is one example. Lessing is also probably the better writer, as a technician of language, but where insights about women are concerned, I think it is Marian Engel who is breaking ground.

by Patricia Hughes

## Seven Beauties: picture of despair

The hero of the movie Seven Beauties catches exactly the flavour of the typical macho, bigger-than-life Italian male. He is also a victim of the ambiguity that faces the small man caught up in the debacle of the War of Hitler and Mussolini.

But above and beyond the Italian and German setting this man, Pavolini is 'everyman' who nurses his tender ego through a cold and indifferent world clutching at straws to feed his defiant need for self-respect.

On a more general plane, the movie probes the reasons for the historical events that resulted in so much human destruction. How could it come about that individual men ordinarily humane and decent, consider it their duty to debase, kill and torture their fellow man?

Pavolini in a chat with a fellow prisoner on politics (the other man was a socialist and so was imprisoned by the fascist legal system under Mussolini) displays the social irresponsibility that leads to war; "Well,

says Pavolini, vicariously identifying with the leader's braggadocio, "Mussolini has brought Italy international respect in role as 'strong man of Europe.'"

Amnesty for prisoners finds Pavolini in the army where he is caught up with a trainful of Jews somewhere in Germany. After witnessing Germans shooting down people in the field they are finally caught and end up in the hell of a Nazi concentration camp. In its commandant, a fat, mannish-looking German woman who coldly and efficiently dispatches her prisoners, is displayed the wounded vanity of the German ego attempting to prove its superiority in a world where the fittest survive.

Mussolini is but Pavolini writ large; his wild gesticulations are a celebration of charismatic impotence that struts its defiance on the stage of history. Pavolini's life is a microcosm of the authoritarian incoherence of a society whose fascist leaders rage against the incoherence of the international eco-

nomie order where empty competition has generated world war, the logical outcome of its own anti-human ideology.

In one of the final scenes Pavolini is forced by the Nazis to shoot his friend. In this act of moral suicide the world is an accomplice. The subtle, insidious cancer of self-mutilation that in peace-time is called 'business as usual' here finds its sickening denouement. Peace under capitalism has been called 'war by other means'.

The movie in its entirety leaves one with a feeling of despair since it embodies a mirror image of the true state of existing society. If the truth is so painful one feels compelled to deny it then this movie as a portrait of man coerced by a system that only exists at the price of human self-alienation is a fitting epitaph.

"If you seek your monument (read 'tomb'), look about you."

by Martin MacPherson





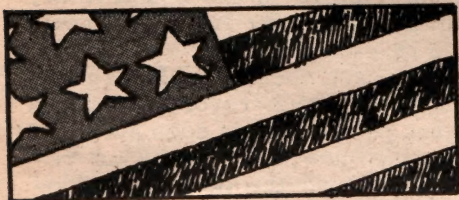
# Poetry stands on guard for thee

LANGUAGE OF FIRE: POEMS OF LOVE & STRUGGLE, Robin Mathews, Steel Rail Publishing (Toronto, 1976).

by David Nock

Robin Mathews will be remembered by many people as the chap who started the struggle for Canadianization within our universities. His comrade then (the late 1960s) was James Steele. Both men were professors of English at Carleton University in Ottawa. Both were denounced by hysterical Canadians and histrionic Americans as virtual Nazis. That Canadian universities should have Canadian profs--how absurd! We need the best, they said; the best aren't Canadian came back the echo.

Robin Mathews had the guts to show that the American and British emperors and legates didn't have



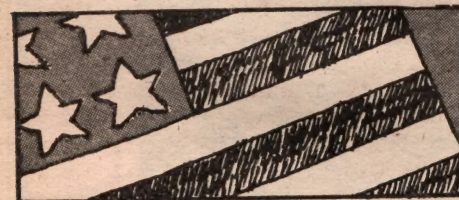
any clothes. He told us we didn't have to apologize for being born in Sudbury, or Red Deer, or Medicine Hat.

Robin Mathews has never quite fitted into the predominant behavioural norms of modern academe. Those norms dictate that the modern academic must not make waves; he must not be polemical nor must he have a cause. Above all, he (or she) must not be, gasp, an ideologist.

In academic circles, "ideology" means not so much a set of coherent ideas on the world, but any idea system that goes against the grain of liberal imperialistic corporate capitalism.

In that sense, Robin Mathews is an "ideologist". He believes strongly that Canada has (and has had) its own culture, a culture distinct from that of American imperialism. As far as Mathews is concerned, Canada has been characterized by a sense of "community", whereas the United States has adopted what he calls "Liberal Anarchism" as its watchword.

"Liberal Anarchism" for Robin Mathews means a number of things. It is his emotional catch-all code-word which starts his adrenalin flowing at increased pace. For Mathews, the kernel of capitalist thought is a concern with the



self. Mathews denies that capitalist man can truly belong to a community since capitalism emphasizes egoism and egotistical striving. So it follows that the United States, the leading centre of capitalist enterprise, cannot also be the home of a true sense of community.

Thus, the American "hero" is concerned with his own well-be-

ing, not that of his community. Robin Mathews has himself used the example of Huck Finn to represent the American Liberal Anarchist "hero" in a paper he published 1973. Huck Finn "lights out for the territories." He does not stay behind to improve his community, and to be a part of it.

These typical Mathews' concerns certainly inform his new book of poems, *Language of Fire*. In one of his longer poems in the collection Mathews rakes over the coals "The Liberal American Couple", the embodiment of counter-cultural individualism.

In Canada, both the struggle against American imperialism and the influence of the now almost deceased "counterculture" came to the fore at the same time. Mathews was the spokesman for the one movement, but came to despise the other for its emphasis on anti-communal individualism.

According to Robin, anti-communal individualism, whether robber baron capitalist or "whatever your bag" hippie, has always characterized the American philosophy.

Mathews is especially sensitive to Americans who come to Canada masquerading as "radicals" but who simply import their anti-communal ideology under another guise. Thus former McGill American feminist sociologist Marlene Dixon gets short shrift:

A Canadian working man in working clothes comes into the auditorium with a huge placard saying "Marlene Dixon is a Yankee Imperialist--Go Home Yankee".



They all sneer out of the sides of their mouths like gangsters in Grade B U.S. thrill movies.

One of them leans into the microphone and says, "We're rill proud and happy to see we have rill rednecks up here, in Kenedaa, too."

In the same way, the Liberal Anarchist couple and the Liberal American couple receive the end of Robin Mathew's shoe. I am sure that Robin's analysis of contemporary American society bears some resemblance to Marcuse's notion of "repressive tolerance." The Americans are so "liberal" that Robin Mathews can hardly bear it.

After all: they only eat vegetables of course and he refuses to wear leather or fur or any garment made from animals and so he goes about with plas-tex shoes and raytex belts and soltex gloves and meltex jackets and plutex underwear and many other kinds of invented chemical fibres

that have come to us as the happy by-products of big U.S. research...

What Mathews is saying is that American imperialistic capitalism composes such a forceful totality, that even their self-declared radicals rebel in such a way as to remain consistent with at least the philosophical tenets of the American way of life. When the American rebels, he is often a "rebel without a cause", without roots, without community.

But Robin Mathews berates not only the imperialists and American Liberal Anarchists. Our own be-



loved leaders, not excluding the belatedly revered John Diefenbaker, come under the scattershot of the poet. There is a piece of "Peter" Trudeau:

He is our leader, our Prince, our joy, the fighting PM, the millionaire boy, The lover, the dilettante, swimmer and Pet, Canada's male Marie Antoinette.

And then there are the love poems. In the case of both Mathews and Milton Acorn (who wrote the introduction to this book) these count among them some of the most effective pieces.

Thank god for the poet who has important causes and who serves in the role of prophet as foreteller.

But thank god as well for the poet who has relationships and affairs. The 1930s-style poet who said nothing about the self risked being a dull dog. In a sense politics only counts because of the long term effects it creates on persons and personal relationships.

Mathews writes of the difficulties we all face of transforming emotion into effective communication:

This is instead of a poem. Because sometimes poems won't happen when you want them to most... like other things.

And then there is the agony of separation and isolation from the beloved one, and the hope to be reunited. Let me quote one of



the poems on this subject in full: This morning I waken rain falling on the city roof tops thrusting into the soft air.

You've been away long days what seems a long long time. I think of mediaeval monks and prisoners in strong island forts.

I understand visions insanity bizarre dreams

mortification of the flesh. I understand renaissance her-oes. wasting to death alone in bed writing in fever I feel like a throbbing single cell surging pulsing I keep sane by remembering the day of your return. I think of your body beside me your flesh in my hands your soft body making love our moving together. I turn on the white marble sheet cold rain cutting the air.

I could go on and on. Mathews cuts a wide swathe. But the general point is that what he writes about matters. And that what he writes is meant to be read and understood by a wide community. Not any wide community, though. Mathews appeals especially to patriotic left-leaning anti-imperialist English Canadians or anglophones. In the case of Robin Mathews it would be an insult to say that his poetry has a "universal



appeal".

Because if Robin Mathews makes anything clear, it is that literature is created in, and must be understood and appreciated from, a specific community. The idea that poetry is just poetry and can be appreciated in the same manner or on the same level in Dallas as in Thunder Bay would I am sure, receive the back of Mathews' hand.

And talking about community and communities, it is a pleasure to recommend a reading of Robin Mathews to residents of Edmonton, since he was a professor at the University of Alberta for a number of years in the 1960s. Even then he was an "activist" in politics as well as a man of letters.

It would seem that with Milton Acorn and Robin Mathews, poetry is coming out of the doldrums in the western capitalist world (including Canada) has been inward-looking, individualistic, with the poet almost denying his membership in a wider community. In many cases this meant the production of poetry that was hardly intended for a wider audience, a poetry that was introspective to the point of incoherence.

Now once again poetry is becoming what it began as--an art of the folk, an art intended for appreciation by specific cultural communities.





# Quebec election

## a critical view

### Second thoughts...

The previous article was written before the Quebec election. In it I did not celebrate the possibility of a Parti Quebecois victory.

The main point of the article stands--that the PQ is not socialist and Rene Levesque is surrounded by conservative and orthodox men such as Claude Morin, Jacques - Y. Morin, and Jacques Parizeau.

On the other hand, the PQ victory sweeps out a corrupt, anti-worker Liberal party which fully deserved its defeat.

Rene Levesque is himself a "social democrat" who would see Sweden as an ideal society. But in Sweden 90% of the economy is still in capitalist hands.

Clearly the PQ victory should be welcomed in the short-run. A clean, honest, mildly progressive government will be a great improvement

The Liberals in Quebec were in trouble. So they called an early election to scrape a victory before the situation got worse.

About a year ago, the opinion polls showed the social democratic independentiste Parti Quebecois running ahead of the Liberals, with a large uncommitted vote however.

Since then the Liberal position worsened on two fronts. On the one hand, the anglophone backlash against bilingualism in the rest of Canada has strengthened the hand of the PQ. The recent booing of French in the Team Canada hockey game in Toronto was widely reported in Quebec. French-speaking Quebecers also felt outraged that air controllers cannot speak French in their own province. The reaction in Vancouver where residents protested against one French television station preempting an American channel would also be noted adversely in Quebec.

And the recent resignation and public speeches of former cabinet minister and capitalist tycoon James Richardson on the language issue--tended to play up the position of the PQ.

On the other hand, the anglophone vote in Quebec which always went Liberal to evade the separatist hordes was now uncertain. The recent language bills attacked the weakest anglophone community in Quebec--the immigrants. When the Bourassa government did heed the nationalist and separatist appeals to strengthen the position of the French language, it was not by attacking the wealthy English Canadian communities but by attacking the vul-

nerable immigrant group, many of whom are working class. Thus Bourassa "promoted" the use of French in about the most despicable manner possible.

Recently, the defunct Union Nationale showed some signs of life bidding for the votes of the anglophone community and opposing the stand of the Bourassa Liberals on this question. That's another sweet irony of history since the Union Nationale--as its very name implies--was intended to be a nationalist party from its outset in the 1930s.

But parties under our system of liberal-democratic capitalism will grasp at straws to remain solvent. So we see the party of Maurice Duplessis wooing the non-French vote.

One reason for Bourassa calling an election was to prevent further inroads on the anglophone vote by the Union Nationale. In French Quebec, the Liberals and PQ run about neck and neck so the Premier needed a good percentage of the anglophone votes to keep his head above water. Even if the anglophone voters didn't turn en masse to the UN, it would still hurt if they abstained from voting at all.

A number of ridings have an important minority of anglophone voters--say for example, the riding which PQ leader Rene Levesque narrowly lost several times. If these anglophone voters abstained from voting (Liberal), it would allow the PQ to run up the middle.

The problem of the PQ was partly that it suffered since it began in the 1960s. The party is strong in Montreal (45% of the provincial population) and one or two other areas. But it has never been strong enough in the mass of ridings out in the countryside. In the old days, the Union Nationale and Social Credit were strong in these ridings. Last time, the Liberals took many of f

these areas. For the PQ to form a government, they had to crack this "hinterland". In 1973, the 30% vote of the PQ only translated into six seats out of 110. Most of these were in Montreal.

Another problem in the PQ was caused by the recent eclipse of the party-sponsored Le Jour. In the past, the PQ attracted the support of many political "progressives". Yet the leadership has always been moderate. Rene Levesque may be considered a Swedish-style social democrat. One other PQ leader, Jacques Parizeau, an economist, has even had ties with the Rockefeller family.

In the case of Le Jour, the more radical journalists who wished to

run the paper on the basis of staff democracy, were squelched by the "moderate" managers of the enterprise. The failure of the newspaper allowed Bourassa to make political hay by claiming that a party which couldn't run a newspaper could surely not run a new country.

The issues of politics in French Quebec were much more diffuse in the 1960s. Now the major issue seems to be language. It is an issue that is not especially class-specific.

Former prominent "Justice Minister" Jerome Choquette of October crisis fame, resigned the Bourassa government in protest, supposedly over the languages issue. Choquette believed the Liberals weren't being "tough" enough. Recently Choquette formed a new party, the Popular National Party and there was to be a marriage with the Union Nationale. But this floundered when both Rodrigue Biron of the UN and Choquette wanted to be the chief of the new party. So it would seem that Choquette's new party will have all the pizzazz of Paul Hellyer's former hubbub, Action Canada.

As for the Creditistes, they seem to have enough problems in keeping themselves united. The party fell on hard times when several splits broke out several years ago.

So Bourassa bet he could hold enough ridings in the countryside, with a smattering from Montreal, to be re-elected.

In the past, there used to be great excitement which revolved around Quebec politics. This does not seem the case now. With politics revolving around the question of language and constitution, the class question has been somewhat submerged.

In plural societies, the national or ethnic question often masks the class nature of social organization. At present this seems to be the case in Quebec. The Liberals do not make the pulse of this writer quicken with excitement. But neither does the PQ. In its flight to respectability, the PQ has stifled the progressive ranks within its midst. When Rene Levesque voices the opinion that political differences are inevitable on the basis of ethnicity, language, or culture, he doesn't say anything which encourages a progressive.

At a time when separatism has an anti-imperialist focus (and there are still such groups in Quebec) separatism was a progressive force. But when a Jacques Parizeau talks about a David Rockefeller agreeing to a Quebec nation-state then one has to wonder.

## SUBSCRIBE NOW!

\$3.00 for 12 issues

\$6.00 for 24 issues

**PRAIRIE STAR**

**10737 95 STREET**

**EDMONTON**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**FREE! one copy of Gonick's INFLATION & WAGE CONTROLS  
with each \$6 subscription**

